



Hello Friends,

I want to let you know about a very special event I am hosting along with Renovo Communities. This will be a special home buyers seminar. The seminar will help constituents find out how you can take advantage of specialized loan programs for teachers, police officers, firefighters, City and County workers and Veterans. These specialized loan programs offer unique advantages for service to the community.

Here are the details:

**Wednesday, July 25, 2007**

**5:30 pm to 7:30 pm,**

**Civic Auditorium  
Hanford, CA**

RSVP by Friday, July 20, 2007  
to my Hanford District Office at:  
(559) 585 7170 or Email to [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

There are opportunities to make the American Dream affordable to our Local Heroes. Join me and Renovo Communities in finding out how to take full advantage of these opportunities.

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**What's Happening in Sacramento**

**The California leafy greens industry has set July 23rd as the date when mandatory food safety audits of its members will begin. The California Leafy Green Products Marketing Agreement (LGMA) unanimously approved a start date for mandatory compliance audits of its members, and finalized other key aspects of its program. The LGMA was formed in response to the *E. coli* outbreak that was linked to California spinach last year. The marketing agreement represents approximately 99% of the leafy greens industry in California, and requires of signatories that they implement and maintain the highest standards of safety in growing and handling spinach, lettuce**

and other leafy greens. [www.caleafygreens.ca.gov](http://www.caleafygreens.ca.gov)

The **U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA)** Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service has announced the availability of almost **\$19 million in grants** to small agricultural businesses for animal waste management and other projects, especially agriculture-related manufacturing and alternative or renewable energy projects. Details and application are available from: [www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/sbir.cfm). Due date for Phase 1 proposals: September 5, 2007.

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### **My Legislative Highlights**

**AB 1255 successfully passed the Senate and now heads to the Governor for signature!** I introduced AB 1255 at the request of Fresno County and SEIU to provide the statutory authority for implementing the negotiated agreement reached these two parties for retirement benefits for newly hired general members.

**My bill targeting drunk drivers, AB 808, passed the Senate Transportation Committee.** AB 808 would require drivers to sign an advisory statement acknowledging being under the influence of alcohol impairs the ability to drive safely and could result in death. This bill will provide prosecutors irrefutable evidence that a defendant knew the dangers of drinking and driving yet still chose to drive while intoxicated. AB 808 now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AB 1359 passed the Senate Environmental Quality Committee.** This legislation proposes to facilitate the recycling and re-use of used dielectric mineral oil from electrical transformers. AB 1359 now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

**AB 1545 passed the Senate Education Committee with bi-partisan support.** AB 1545 requires the State Allocation Board to conduct an evaluation and issue a report to the Legislature regarding the eligibility criteria for financial hardship designation with a particular focus on low-wealth school districts and school districts with low-assessed property values. Quite simply, no child should have lesser school facilities based simply on the location in which they live.

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### **Constituents Visit Sacramento**

I am fortunate to have many committed, articulate people testify in support of my legislative package. Often, these supporters are from organizations and associations here in Sacramento that represents many individuals and companies in the 30<sup>th</sup> Assembly District, and I appreciate their tremendous effort. **But I want to send a special THANK YOU to Commander Gary Cramer of the Corcoran Police Department who came to testify on behalf of AB 441,** my bill to extend sentencing for methamphetamine dealers. Like all sentencing enhancement bills, AB 441 was put on hold for another year while the State of California deals with its looming prison overcrowding situation. But Commander Cramer's testimony was sincere, eloquent, and persuasive, and I appreciate his time and backing.

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### **In the District**

**The Business, Transportation and Housing Agency awarded Regional Enterprise Zone status to Fresno County.** The Fresno County Regional Enterprise Zone is the first of 23 designations to be awarded this year. The enterprise zone designation extends a state tax credit to businesses if they locate or expand within the enterprise zone as a way to promote business investment and job creation. Businesses can save money five ways – hiring credits, sales and use tax credits, business expense deductions, net operating loss carryover and net interest deductions for lenders. Visit [www.FresnoCountyEZ.com](http://www.FresnoCountyEZ.com) for more details.

If you are interested in volunteering, I urge you to visit California Volunteers at [www.californiavolunteers.org](http://www.californiavolunteers.org). Formerly known as the California Service Corps, California Volunteers is part of the Governor's Office and supports the efforts of individuals and local organization that make California a better place to live through voluntary action. You can make a positive difference in our communities. Please volunteer today!

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### **Meeting Requests**

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at [Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov)

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### **Interns Wanted**

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: [Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov)

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: [Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov)

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: [Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov)

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**Bakersfield Office:**

601 24th St.,  
Suite A  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Phone: (661) 334-3745  
Fax: (661) 334-3796

**Hanford Office:**

321 N. Douty St.,  
Suite B  
Hanford, CA 93230  
Phone: (559) 585-7170  
Fax: (559) 585-7175

**Capitol Office:**

State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249  
Phone: (916) 319-2030  
Fax: (916) 319-2130

**Email:** [Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:Assemblymember.Parra@assembly.ca.gov)

**Web Site:** <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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